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Crafted from the corpses of battlefield casualties, a race of immortal soldiers called "the Undying" fought a bloody war for their human creators. When the war ended, they were eradicated in the name of God at the hands of those for whom they had fought endlessly...

Eighty years later, an orphaned girl named Kieli questions if that God even exists. Unable to bear the hypocrisy of the living, spirit-sensitive Kieli spends more time with ghosts ignorant of their own deaths rather than with girls her own age. But when she runs into a young man named Harvey who can also see ghosts, Kieli thinks she's finally found a friend among the living. She resolves to be a part of his life, but the truth of Harvey's existence will throw Kieli's world into chaos and force her to reevaluate the meaning of faith.

OLDER TEEN
LV

Yen Press

KIELI
I
STORY BY YUKAKO KABEI
ART BY SHIORI TESHIROGI

ORIGINAL WORK: Yukaka Kabei
MANGA: Shiori Teshirogi

I

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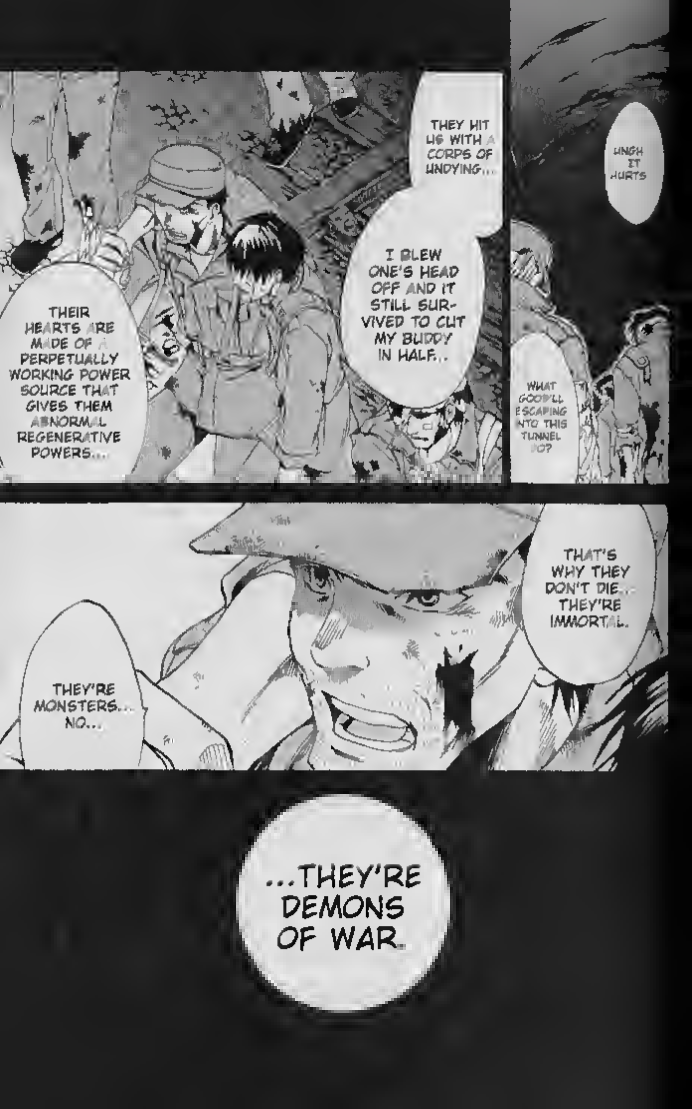
CHAPTER 1
ROOMMATE

ONCE, THIS PLANET HAD A LARGE-SCALE WAR OVER ITS ABUNDANT RESOURCES.
IN THE FINAL STAGES OF THE WAR, THROUGH THE CRYSTALLIZATION OF TECHNOLOGY AND ULTRA-PURE ENERGY.
...A NEW KIND OF HUMAN WEAPON WAS BORN FROM THE RECYCLED BODIES OF FALLEN SOLDIERS. THEY WERE KNOWN AS...
...THE UNDYING.


THEY HIT US WITH A CORPS OF UNDYING...
I BLEW ONE'S HEAD OFF AND IT STILL SURVIVED TO CUT MY BUDDY IN HALF..
THEIR HEARTS ARE MADE OF A PERPETUALLY WORKING POWER SOURCE THAT GIVES THEM ABNORMAL REGENERATIVE POWERS...
UNGH IT HURTS
WHAT GOOD'LL ESCAPING INTO THIS TUNNEL DO?
THAT'S WHY THEY DON'T DIE... THEY'RE IMMORTAL.
THEY'RE MONSTERS... NO...
...THEY'RE DEMONS OF WAR.

YOU IDIOT!! EVEN WITHOUT A FOOT, I CAN—
CORPORAL! GO ON AHEAD! HURRY!
THEY'RE HERE! THE BAS-TARDS ARE HERE!!
THE UNDY-ING!!

THE PLANET'S RESOURCES WERE DEPLETED, BRINGING THE WAR TO A CLOSE. AFTER THE WAR, THE CHURCH CARRIED OUT A LARGE-SCALE UNDYING HUNT.
SASHA OKAMAKO
SHIII-
IIIIIII-
IIIIIT!!
IT IS SAID THAT THE UNDYING WENT FROM BEING HUNTERS TO THE HUNTED, AND WERE EXTERMINATED, LEAVING ONLY THEIR LEGEND BEHIND.
DEMONS OF WAR. MEN WHO WENT AGAINST GOD'S WILL.

THEN EIGHTY YEARS PASSED.

...THERE IS NO GOD.
ON THIS PLANET...
LONG LONG AGO...
THE SAINTS ARRIVED ON THIS PLANET AFTER TRAVERSING SPACE FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS AND FOUNDED A CHURCH THAT'S WHAT THE DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF SOCIETY SAY
HEY, GRANDMA!
AFTER TODAY'S SERVICE, I FINALLY GET IT!

GOD WASN'T EVER VERY PATIENT, WAS HE!?
THIS PLANET IS SO FAR AWAY...
...HE GOT TIRED AND WENT HOME BEFORE HE GOT HERE!
I WONDER WHY THE IMPORTANT PEOPLE IN THE CHURCH CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT. IT'S SO SIMPLE!
DO THEY THINK THAT GOD WILL STAY WITH THEM FOREVER?
KIELI.
KIELI.

UNTIL EIGHTY YEARS AGO, THERE WAS A LONG WAR ON THIS PLANET OVER THE FOSSILIZED RESOURCES IN THE PLANET'S STRATA.
I'M SORRY, GRAND-MA...
BECAUSE OF THAT WAR, THERE ARE ALMOST NO FOSSILIZED RESOURCES LEFT NOW.
I WON'T SAY THAT AGAIN..
IN THAT WAR, THERE WERE DEMON SOLDIERS THAT KILLED A LOT OF PEOPLE
APPARENTLY THE CHURCH EXTERMINATED THEM AFTER THE WAR ENDED.
SO NOW GROWN-UPS TELL BAD CHILDREN

IF YOU'RE NOT GOOD...
...THE CHURCH'S SOLDIERS WILL CUT OUT YOUR HEART...
...UNDYING...
...THE DEMONS OF WAR...
...LIKE THEY DID TO THE...
!
KYAAA!

DO CHUNG
IT'S THE CHURCH'S SOLDIERS...
CHURCH SOLDIERS...
!
H..

A HEART MADE OF BLACK STONE...

...CHURCH SOLDIERS AND CARBONIZATION GUNS...

...WAS THAT...

...WAS THAT A DEMON OF WAR FROM THE STORIES...

...AN UNDYING?

SEVEN YEARS LATER
AHH. . A DAY LIKE TODAY, AND I'M THE ONLY ONE IN THE USUAL BLACK UNIFORM...
MY GOOD-NESS, KIEL!
HONESTLY! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING!?
NOT ONLY ARE YOU LATE, BUT DRESSED THE WAY YOU ARE!!
DON'T TELL ME YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT TODAY'S SERVICE. .!?
THE NINTH GRADERS AT OUR SCHOOL ARE TO SING THE HYMNS ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE COLONIZATION DAY HOLIDAYS!
YOU ARE TO WEAR YOUR WHITE UNIFORM TO PRACTICE!!
WELL, NOBODY TOLD ME...
I'M SORRY, HANNI-SENSEI
KUSAI CHACHERO
PIKO CHINO

WELL, IT WON'T DO ANY GOOD TO SAY ANYTHING ABOUT IT NOW DON'T LET IT HAPPEN AGAIN.
NOW DON'T DAWDLE. GET IN LINE.
GO TO THE BACK, WHERE YOU WON'T STAND OUT TOO MUCH
YES, MA'AM
!
JUST BECAUSE I DON'T HAVE A ROOMMATE...
IT KIND OF FEELS LIKE A TACKY WITCH-IN-TRAINING IN A CHORUS OF ANGELS, DOESN'T IT?
SHUT UP, ZILLA...
BECCA..

IT HAPPENED TO ME, TOO.
?
MY GRANDMA DIED, AND WITHOUT ANY RELATIVES, I FOUND MYSELF AT EASTERBURY BOARDING SCHOOL
IT'S BEEN SEVEN YEARS SINCE THAT INCIDENT...

AS USUAL, I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO'S REALIZED THAT THERE IS NO GOD ON THIS PLANET.
...IF THAT OLD MAN, THE HIGH PRIEST, HAD HOLY PRO-TECTION ..
CHIKA GULPING
...I MEAN, IF THE CHURCH HAD HOLY POWERS...
...THAT PERSON WHO'S SUPPOSED TO BE DEAD WOULDN'T COME AND GO FROM THE CHAPEL SO FEARLESSLY IN THE MIDDLE OF PRAYER
WHY CAN'T ANYONE SEE THAT BUT ME...?

KIELL.
...
KIELL, WE'RE STARTING.
!
WHEN THIS SERVICE IS OVER, WE GET A LONG VACATION FOR THE COLONIZATION DAYS....

...IT'LL JUST BE A BORING, DEPRESSING TEN DAYS...
FOR ME...
EASTERBURY NEW STATION BUILDING
OH, I CAN'T WAIT! I'M GOING TO WESTERBURY.
PAPA AND MAMA HAVE ALREADY GONE. THEY'LL MEET ME THERE!

I WISH YOU COULD COME WITH ME INSTEAD OF JUST SEEING ME OFF, KIELI...
HEY, KIELI, DID YOU KNOW?
IN WESTERBURY, THEY'VE DEVELOPED CABLE NETWORKING AND AUDIO-VISUAL TECHNOLOGY
WHEN THE SUN GOES DOWN, THEY PROJECT ALL THESE COLORS ON A SCREEN ON THE SIDE OF A BUILDING, AND IT'S ALL BRIGHT AND SPARKLY.
I DON'T NEED ANY-THING
YOU CAN EXPECT A SOUVENIR
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE?
AWW, YOU COULD ASK FOR SOMETHING

COPPER-COLORED HAIR...
A DEAD BODY...
ZAWA
ZAWA
ZAWA (UNDERWATER)
THERE ARE A LOT OF THEM IN THE WINTER...
I WONDER IF HE WAS A SEMINARIAN ON SABBATICAL
KIELI!
AH, YEAH.
THERE'S A DEAD PERSON...
WHAT'S THE MATTER? I'M LEAVING, YOU KNOW!
HIS SPIRIT'S NOT AROUND... SO HE HAD NO UNFINISHED BUSINESS

I'LL TELL ONE OF THE STATION WORKERS LATER...
DID HE MOVE...?
JUST NOW.
EH? BUT THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT HE'S...

?
...EEK!
DE-
DEAD...
...THE DEAD BODY MOVED!!
!?
ZAWA ZAWA
ZAWA ZAWA

I'M SORRY SHE'S JUST A LITTLE WEIRD..
COME ON, KIEL! SAY YOU'RE SORRY.
I'M VERY SORRY...
THE STATION WORKERS TREATED HIM LIKE A CRIMINAL THANKS TO YOU.
WELL, IT'S OVER NOW...
I'M BECCA. THIS IS MY ROOMMATE, KIEL!
OH...
AND YOU ARE?

STILL, IT'S INCREDIBLE...
BECCA... SURE SEEMS HAPPY TO HAVE MET THIS SEMI-NARIAN.
THEY ARE PRETTY ELITE..
IT'S TOO BAD! HERE WE JUST MET, BUT I'M ABOUT TO LEAVE ON A TRIP TO WESTERBURY!!
HARVEY-SAN!
I'M HAR-VEY...
HIS EYES ARE THE SAME COPPER COLOR AS HIS HAIR...
WILL YOU BE IN EASTERBURY UNTIL THE COLONIZATION DAYS ARE OVER?
IT WOULD BE NICE IF WE COULD TALK AGAIN AFTER I GET BACK.
OH..
I'M LEAVING TOMORROW
GOING THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION OF WEST-ERBURY.

OH!
OH...
LOOKS LIKE IT'S BOARDING TIME
THAT'S TOO BAD.
WILL YOU BE BOARDING?
NO...
AND YOU, MISS?
I SEE

WAIT A MINUTE... I'M BOARDING...!!
JUST A...
SEE YOU, KIEL!! YOU'LL BE OKAY WITHOUT ME, RIGHT!?
HARVEY-SAN!
I PRAY WE'LL MEET AGAIN!
YEAH
BY THE WAY...

GASU (GAS)
GOTON (CRASH)
GOTON (CRASH)

I JUST WANTED TO PRETEND A LITTLE LIKE I WAS GOING ON A TRIP
YOU'RE NOT REALLY A SEMINARIAN, EITHER ..
YOU'RE STUPID .
WAH..!
STUUUU-UUUUUU-UUUUUU-UUUPID!!!
EH DARLING?

I NEVER ONCE SAID I WAS A SEMINARIAN.
WHAT DID YOU SAY TO BECCA?
NOTHING.
ALL I DID WAS ASK HOW LONG I HAD TO PLAY ALONG WITH THIS TRAVESTY
I DON'T LIKE TO MEDDLE IN OTHER PEOPLE'S AFFAIRS TOO MUCH, BUT
...IT'S BETTER TO NOT CARE ABOUT SPIRITS LIKE THAT AND IGNORE THEM. THEY GET CARRIED AWAY AND NEVER LEAVE YOU ALONE

A WHILE AGO SO YOU HAVE A STRONG SPIRITUAL SENSE ..?
Y-
YOU FIGURED OUT BECCA WASN'T HUMAN...?
YES.
HE CAN SEE THEM.
YEAH. LESS TROUBLE THAT WAY.
BUT MY LATE GRANDMA TOLD ME NOT TO TELL TOO MANY PEOPLE...
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I...
...I'VE MET SOMEONE ELSE WHO CAN SEE DEAD PEOPLE...
HOW DO YOU KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT THEM...!?
HEY, YOU CAN SEE OTHER DEAD PEOPLE, TOO!?
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME
HEY...

I HAVE NO INTENTION OF GETTING MIXED UP WITH A SPIRIT-SENSITIVE LITTLE GIRL LIKE YOU!
SO I'M SORRY, BUT..
LOOK, YOU.
NONE!
AT ALL! WHATSO-EVER!!
I CAN'T SAY I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU FEEL.
NOW THE SIXTH GRADER SHOULD GO HOME AND FINISH UP HER HOMEWORK OR SOMETHING!
WELL, SEE YOU AROUND!
.....
HAVE A NICE COLONIZATION DAY VACATION!

I'M NOT IN SIXTH GRADE, I'M IN NINTH GRADE!!
I'M FOUR-TEEN YEARS OLD!!!
WHA
WH-
WHA-
WHAT'S HIS PROBLEM?
HE DIDN'T HAVE TO SAY IT LIKE THAT...!!
THAT'S INCREDIBLY RUDE...!!

GASP
GASP
GASP

I HEARD THE GIRL WHO WAS IN KIEL'S ROOM TWO YEARS AGO DIED IN A TRAIN WRECK...
MISO (WHISPER)
I KNOW!
AND KIEL'S OLD ROOMMATE SAID SHE HEARD VOICES IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, SO SHE TRANSFERRED!
MISO
SO SHE'S IN A HAUNTED ROOM ALL BY HERSELF
MISO
THAT'S CREEPY...
MISO
TEN MORE DAYS.
AND I HAVE TO SPEND THEM WITH ZILLA AND HER CRONIES..
BECCA... WHAT IF...
BECCA (LATER)
THIS YEAR'S COLONIZATION DAY BREAK TURNED TERRIBLE ON THE FIRST DAY.

...SHE NEVER COMES BACK?
NO, NO... I'LL JUST DO MY REPORT.
THE HISTORY OF THE CHURCH OUTSIDE OF EASTERBURY..
IS THAT TO TORMENT ME SINCE I CAN'T GO ANYWHERE FOR THE BREAK?
AAH!
BE-
WELCOME BACK!

AWW. AND HERE IT WAS SO NICE AND QUIET.
HEY! HEY!
WHAT HAPPENED AFTER I LEFT? DID YOU TALK TO THAT RUDE JERK?
NOT REALLY
HE WENT OFF SOMEWHERE.
HEY!
LET'S PLAY A LITTLE JOKE ON HIM!
UGH, IT WAS JUST A LITTLE GAME. COULDN'T HE JUST HAVE PLAYED ALONG!?
AND HE COULDN'T HAVE BEEN TOO UPSET ABOUT BEING PAMPERED AND GETTING A TASTE OF WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE A SEMINARIAN!
*SHUT UP

YEAH.
THE RADIO HE HAD! YOU SAW IT, RIGHT? THAT BEAT-UP, OLD THING!
PLAY A JOKE...?
IT'S POSSESSED BY A SPIRIT. AN EVIL SPIRIT RADIO
SO..
.. I'LL TAKE IT AWAY FROM HIM AND LURE HIM TO THE SCHOOL
GAME OVER.
WHEN HE CHASES ME HERE, YOU DROP A ROCK OR SOMETHING ON HIM AND SQUASH HIM FLAT!!
THAT'LL SHOW HIM!
JU-
JUST A SECOND, BECCA!

HE WOULDN'T DIE FROM A LITTLE THING LIKE THAT.
LOOK, YOU... ANY NORMAL PERSON...
I MEAN...
ISN'T THAT BEYOND A LITTLE JOKE?
ETC.
ETC.
IF WE DO THAT, HE'LL DIE.
WHO'S GONNA CARRY A ROCK LIKE THAT HERE AND DROP IT?
ETC
I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN.
AWWW!
...HE'S AN UNDYING.
EH ...!?
YOU DIDN'T KNOW?
I THOUGHT IF ANYONE WOULD FIGURE IT OUT, YOU WOULD, KIELI.
I MEAN, HE DOESN'T HAVE A SOUL. THERE'S A ROCK MOVING HIS CORPSE AROUND.
.....
...UNDYING ...?

THEY SAY THE UNDYING ARE DEMONS OF WAR.
MONSTERS, CREATED BY RECYCLING THE BODIES OF DEAD SOLDIERS.
THEY DON'T DIE, OR GROW OLD...
THEY WERE SOLDIERS CREATED TO FIGHT IN PLACE OF HUMANS... THEY WERE ANIMATE CORPSES.
IN THE WAR THAT TOOK PLACE A LONG, LONG TIME BEFORE WE WERE BORN. THEIR HEARTS WERE REPLACED WITH PERPETUALLY WORKING POWER SOURCES.
KIELI, COULD IT BE YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE UNDYING?
BUT...
I MEAN...
I KNOW ABOUT THEM! I HAD TO HEAR ALL ABOUT THEM WHEN I WAS LITTLE!!
I SEE. THAT'S WHY I THOUGHT HE WAS DEAD
HE DOESN'T HAVE A SOUL.

BUT...
...EVEN IF THERE WERE ANY LEFT... THEY WOULDN'T BE WANDERING AROUND LIKE NORMAL IN A PLACE LIKE THIS...!
AND BAD CHILDREN WILL HAVE THEIR HEARTS CUT OUT BY THE CHURCH SOLDIERS, JUST LIKE THE UNDYING DID
WHEN THE WAR CAME TO A CLOSE EIGHTY YEARS AGO, THE CHURCH'S SOLDIERS CONDUCTED A LARGE-SCALE UNDYING HUNT.
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES THEY WERE KILLED, THEY WOULD GET UP AND SLAUGHTER UNTIL THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT.
FINALLY, THEY WERE ERADICATED.

IF HE DIES, THEN WE KNOW HE WAS NORMAL.
WHAT IF HE'S A NORMAL HUMAN!?
SO WE'LL TEST HIM TO SEE IF HE'LL DIE OR NOT.
IF HE'S AN UNDYING, HE WON'T DIE NO MATTER WHAT WE DO!
DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?
HEY... BECCA...
UGH ...!!
.....
REALLY... SHE'S COMPLETELY SELFISH...
OH REALLY?
THAT'S NOT THE WAY A LIVING PERSON THINKS!!

YOU REALLY ARE DEAD, BECCA!
A LIVING HUMAN BEING WOULD NEVER THINK OF SOMETHING SO HORRIFIC!!
WHA-
BECCA... GIVE IT A REST...!!
D-DON'T JUST DECIDE WE'RE FRIENDS...!!
YOU TAGGING ALONG AFTER ME WAS YOUR IDEA, BECCA!!! YOU'RE A NUISANCE!!!
...!
MAYBE I WENT TOO FAR...
WHAT...!? YOU'RE NOT LIKE NORMAL GIRLS EITHER, KIEL!!!
YOU CAN'T EVEN MAKE LIVING FRIENDS...!! I'M YOUR ONLY FRIEND, KIEL!!!

BEC-
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D HEAR YOU SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT, KIEL!...
FINE!
SHE'LL COME BACK LIKE NOTHING EVER HAPPENED!
BUT IT'S CERTAINLY NOT TRUE THAT THE UNDYING HAD ALL BEEN WIPED OUT.
...AND GRANDMA DIED THE NEXT SPRING...
BUT WHENEVER I ASKED GRANDMA, SHE WOULD JUST TELL ME THERE WAS NO SUCH THING ANY MORE...
THAT STONE HEART I SAW ON THAT DAY SEVEN YEARS AGO... THAT WAS DEFINITELY AN UNDYING.

YOU CAN'T EVEN MAKE LIVING FRIENDS ...!!
...MAYBE THEY ABANDONED ME BECAUSE I HAVE THIS POWER..
THE FIRST PERSON I'VE MET WHO CAN SEE THE SAME THINGS I SEE..
I WONDER IF HE...
I DON'T REMEMBER. DID MOTHER OR FATHER HAVE THIS POWER TO SEE GHOSTS, TOO...?
OR...
THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS I'D LIKE TO ASK GRANDMA— IF SHE WERE STILL ALIVE..

...COULD TELL ME...
...WHAT I WANT TO KNOW...
I WONDER WHEN IT WAS THAT I LAST CAME TO THIS TOWN...
WHAT WAS THE NEW STATION THEN IS THE OLD STATION NOW...
Herbie!!

IT'S HARVEY...
...CORPORAL.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT NOW?
Never mind that. There's a little thing called "tact."
This afternoon! You saw that girl's face when you left her behind, didn't you!?
AH THAT
You didn't have to be so harsh!!
BUT IT'S SUCH A PAIN.
...DEALING WITH LIVING HUMANS.

I'VE LIVED A LONG TIME.
No one's asking if it's a pain for you or not!!
Dammit, man, it's like you left the words "patience" and "consideration" behind somewhere in your lifetime!!
If you've lived such a long time, you should have polished up your humanity, dammi—
SHH!
Why you!!
YOU KICKED ME!

HAVE YOU COME TO TAKE THIS OLD, SENILE FOOL AWAY..?
THE NIGHTS ARE GETTING HARDER AND HARDER.
YOU . ARE AN UNDYING, AREN'T YOU. .
I WOULD BE HAPPIER IF I PASSED ON BEFORE THE WINTER CAME. .
I'M NOT A SHINIGAMI, YOU KNOW.
YES... I KNOW
Go to her...
TAKE MY HAND...

SUCH BEAUTIFUL HANDS..
OH...
MY HANDS HAVE TURNED ALTOGETHER UGLY AND USELESS OVER THESE EIGHTY YEARS...
I WAS JUST A SMALL CHILD BACK THEN.
BUT I STILL REMEMBER IT CLEARLY.
THE DASHING PARADE IN HONOR OF YOUR TROOPS' TRIUMPHANT RETURN... THE FLAGS THE PEOPLE GREETING YOU WAVED IN YOUR PRAISE...
I WATCHED IT ON A VIDEO TRANSMISSION.
BUT YOUR HANDS DON'T CHANGE, DO THEY...?

BACK THEN, PEOPLE WERE STILL CALLING YOU THE SAVIORS OF THE WAR...
...THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO.
THAT IT WAS
OUR GENERATION HAS JUST ABOUT DIED OUT
NOW THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN TELL THE WORLD...
...HOW FOOLISH THAT WAR WAS...
GURU (GURU)
ARE YOU, THE UNDYING...

HEY..
DON'T GO MAKING IT MY JOB TO HAND DOWN HISTORY
BUT TRY THINKING ABOUT HOW I FEEL, HAVING EVERYTHING FORCED ON ME
YOU MAY BE ALL SATISFIED THAT IT'S OVER FOR YOU..
YOU ALL SAY WHATEVER THE HELL YOU WANT ON YOUR WAY OUT, LEAVE A WILL...
...AND THEN GO OFF AND DIE...

!?
Herbie!!

HERBIE!!
CORPORAL... WHAT'S WR-
THE SPIRIT-SENSE GIRL I MET THIS AFTERNOON...
WHAT'D SHE SHOW UP HERE FOR?

TA CHING
!
WAIT ...!!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO TO THE CORPORAL!?
SUSU (SLIP)
HEY !!
!
SLINKING, THROUGH THIS TINY HOLE.
FASHA (RATTLE)

WHAT ARE YOU THINK-ING!?
HEH ...
HEH HEH ...
HEH HEH ...
HEH!
IS IT THE GHOST FROM THIS AFTER-NOON ...?
SOME-THING'S POSSESSED HER ..

A TRAIN...
THE GROUND'S SHAKING...
DON'T TELL ME...
DAMN...
(GET THROUGH...
HEY...!?
HARVEY-SAN...!!
THE UNDYING DON'T DIE, RIGHT...?
EVEN IF THEY'RE HIT BY A TRAIN...!?

I GOT HIT BY A TRAIN AND DIED...!!
LIKE HELL I'D KNOW!
I DIED... DID YOU KNOW THAT...!?
YOU'RE IN THE WAY, FENCE ...!! MOVE!!

KYAAA !! WH- WHAT IS THIS!?
AAAHH!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, CORPORAL ...!?

SHIT!
BOTOTON (SHUDDER)
TAHH (CLAMMING)

WHY AM I SLEEPING IN MY UNIFORM ...?
HUH?
I THOUGHT I CHANGED AFTER DINNER. .
NOW IT'S ALL WRINKLED.
MUSU (WET)
BLOOD!?
SAWA (CHATTER)
SAWA

BECCA...
WHAT DID YOU DO...? USING MY BODY...
SHE VANISHED AFTER OUR FIGHT YESTERDAY AND WON'T REAPPEAR...
(KATSU! (SLAP))
OW!
ZILLA DID THAT ON PURPOSE...
WELL, WHATEVER.
HEY, I HEARD THERE WAS A TRAIN ACCIDENT AT THE OLD STATION LAST NIGHT.
WOW...
(SATA (CLATTER))
A TRAIN ACCIDENT...?
APPARENTLY AN ANIMAL JUMPED OUT IN FRONT OF A FREIGHT TRAIN AND GOT HIT. THEY'RE SAYING IT WAS A CAT
...WHAT DO YOU MEAN "THEY'RE SAYING"?
THEY COULDN'T FIND THE BODY OF THE ANIMAL THAT GOT HIT

A TRAIN ACCIDENT..? AND THE BODY DISAPPEARED..?
IN THE END, THE RAILWAY DEPARTMENT SETTLED IT BY SAYING IT WAS A CAT AND STARTED THE TRAINS RUNNING AGAIN.
BUT DON'T YOU THINK IT'S WEIRD...
...THAT THERE WOULDN'T BE A BODY ANYWHERE?
LIKE MAYBE SOMEONE TOOK IT HOME TO USE IN A DEMONIC RITUAL
NO WAY...
LIKE A CERTAIN SOMEONE WHO CHASED OFF HER ROOMMATE WITH A DEMONIC CURSE.
IT COULDN'T BE...!!

BECCA!!
YOU'RE HERE, AREN'T YOU? I KNOW YOU ARE..!!
HEY! BECCA!?

WERE YOU AT THE RAILROAD TRACKS LAST NIGHT?
WHAT WERE YOU DOING?
DID THAT BLOOD COME FROM A CAT?
A CAT?
IT WAS ON MY UNIFORM WHEN I WOKE UP!
WHERE DID THE BLOOD COME FROM?

WHERE DID THE BLOOD COME FROM?
THAT'S RIGHT. IT WAS A CAT.

.....
I WAS TESTING HIM TO SEE IF HE REALLY WOULDN'T DIE .
'COS YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE ME, KIELI.
NO...
THEN IT WASN'T A CAT THAT WAS HIT BY THAT CARGO TRAIN... IT WAS A GROWN MAN?
THEN ..
WHAT.. WHAT HAP- PENED AFTER THAT...?
DID HE NOT DIE?
I DON'T KNOW.

YOU DON'T KNOW ...? YOU MEAN YOU DIDN'T CHECK ...?
I WAS SCARED, SO I CAME HOME. I MEAN, THE TRAIN RAN INTO HIM...
THERE WAS A "SQUISH" ...
THERE WAS A "SQUISH" SOUND... IT REALLY SOUNDED LIKE THAT...
W-WELL...
WELL, I DIDN'T KNOW IT WOULD BE SO SCARY...
WELL, OF COURSE IT DID!!

DID THAT HAPPEN TO ME, TOO...?
WAS I SQUASHED LIKE THAT, TOO...!?
IS THAT WHAT I LOOK LIKE...
BECC...
WHAT DO I LOOK LIKE TO YOU, KIELI...?
IT'S OKAY I UNDER-STAND.

YOU WAIT HERE AND STAY OUT OF TROUBLE. I'LL GO LOOK FOR HIM..
BUT THIS DOESN'T MEAN... THAT WHAT BECCA DID WAS FORGIV-ABLE...
AND BASED ON HOW EVERYTHING HAPPENED..
...I'LL BE THE ONE FOUND GUILTY OF MURDER...
UGH!
WHAT HAS SHE DONE!!?
SASHA (RATTLE)

THE RAILWAY DEPARTMENT'S DONE INVESTIGATING..
THIS IS THE SCENE OF THE ACCIDENT.
AND THIS IS THE ONLY PLACE WHERE THE FENCE HAS BEEN REPAIRED..
THE CHURCH'S CORPSE DISPOSAL TEAM...
DON'T TELL ME... THIS DEAD BODY IS...
!

!
HER SPIRIT'S LOOKING THIS WAY...
IT WAS COLD LAST NIGHT...
PROBABLY A VAGRANT WHO COULDN'T MAKE IT THROUGH THE NIGHT
WHEW..
IT WAS SOMEONE ELSE
!
GOODBYE
WHAT AT...?
SHE'S POINTING...?
WHAT?

THE OLD STATION...
COLD...
!
Keep Out
VOICES...
I SAID..
..THERE'S NO NEED TO HURRY HOW LONG ARE YOU GONNA WHINE OVER STAYING ONE EXTRA DAY?
YOU'RE PRETTY OLD YOURSELF. GET YOURSELF SOME MORE COMPOSURE
COPPER-COLORED HAIR.. IT'S HIM..
OH... HE'S FINE...
WHEW
Shut up!!

OH, NO. IT'S THAT'S THE EVIL SPIRIT RADIO. BECCA WAS TALKING ABOUT...
But now we can't move until you stop looking like you came straight out of a ghost story.
Dammit! If things had gone the way they were supposed to, we'd be in the abandoned mine in eastern Easterbury in three days!
THE RADIO'S TALKIN...!
There's no reason I should have to put up with you treating me like an old man!
You're not gonna get rid of me somewhere and run away while my power's off, are you?
OH, SHUT UP! LIKE THIS IS MY FAULT! IF YOU DON'T STOP BLATHERING ON, I'LL CUT YOUR POWER!
THERE'S A PERSON'S FACE IN THE STATIC...
Trust is something you build up through your daily actions.
I WOULDN'T DO THAT. I TOLD YOU I'D TAKE YOU TO THE MINE, DIDN'T I? AM I THAT UNTRUSTWORTHY?
Who's there!?
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN A SPIRIT LIKE THAT

That little girl!
Don't you ever learn? How dare you ...!?
WAH!
.....!!
NO WAY...

CALM DOWN, CORPO-RAL!!
IT WASN'T HER...!!
HELPED ME
SHE'S NOT POSSESSED RIGHT NOW!
N-

NOOO-OOOO-OOOO!!
OH, JUST SHUT UP THIS IS PARTIALLY YOUR FAULT, YOU KNOW
LISTEN, CORPORAL...
CORPORAL!!
IT'S NO USE... HE CAN'T HEAR ME...
!
WE'RE GETTING OUT OF HERE ...!!

HE ALMOST KILLED ME WITH THAT TEMPER ONCE, YOU KNOW!
I DIDN'T KNOW
BUT.
BUT HOW CAN YOU BE ALIVE AFTER THAT..?
WAH!
WHY DO YOU HAVE TO HAVE SUCH BAD TIMING!!?
AWW, MAN, WHAT'S WITH ME ...!?
YOU'RE IN THE WAY! GET OUTSIDE!!

LOOK OUT!!
FUNA CHUNT!
KARA CHARA

I DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD TURN INTO THIS...
I'M SORRY...
I'M SORRY, KIELI!
GU (SWALLOW)
I'M SORRY...
BECCA... I'M FINE..
BUT...
...I found you...
BARI (CRACKLE)
BARI
BARI
YOU...

NO... BECCA...!!
NO
KYAAAA...!!
!
WAH!!

ARE YOU SATISFIED NOW, CORPORAL...?

MOVE!
GAU (GRAB)
HA... (GASP)
ARE...
UM... ARE YOU OKAY!?
WATA (FLUSTER)
WE NEED A DOCTOR ...!!
!?
WHAT'S GOING ON...?
SU (TOUCH)
IT'S FINE. IF I LEAVE IT ALONE, IT'LL CLOSE UP.
HUHU (SIGH)

THERE'S SOME TAR-LIKE STUFF COVERING HIS WOUNDS...
UH... UM...
ARE YOU REALLY... AN UNDYING —?
HUH?
I THOUGHT YOU ALREADY KNEW.
DIDN'T YOUR BUDDY TELL YOU?
AH! OH, YEAH.
BECCA!
BECCA, ARE YOU OKAY!?
IT CAN'T BE SHE REALLY...
WHERE ARE YOU?
BECCA!
...DISAPPEARED COMPLETELY
THAT SCARED ME!

A LITTLE MORE AND THAT WOULD HAVE KILLED ME
.....
OH, YEAH I AM DEAD, AREN'T I?
YOU'RE ALREADY DEAD.
HEE-HEE...
HA-HA-HA!
...YOU TWO SEEM TO BE ENJOYING YOURSELVES
I FEEL LIKE YOU'VE CAUSED NOTHING BUT TROUBLE FOR ME, THOUGH.
HA-HA!

KIELI, KIELI, WE'RE LEAVING SOON!!
I KNOW, I KNOW. WAIT A MINUTE
HEY.
DON'T YOU THINK THOSE CLOTHES ARE TOO PLAIN? REALLY
THEY'RE FINE!
THIS TRIP IS JUST TO DO RESEARCH FOR THE CHURCH HISTORY REPORT I HAVE TO DO OVER THE COLONIZATION DAY BREAK!
I EVEN TURNED IN THE FORM TO HANG SCARF SO I COULD BE GONE OVERNIGHT

...HEY. WOULD YOU STOP FOLLOWING ME?
WE JUST HAPPEN TO BE GOING TO THE SAME PLACE.
CHIKA (GLANCE)
YOU'RE BAD LUCK.
WE'RE GOING TO ONE OF THE RUINS FROM THE WAR, THE ABANDONED MINE IN EASTERN EASTERSBURY.
I'M JUST USING THE EXCUSE THAT THE STORY OF THE WAR IS PART OF CHURCH HISTORY, SO IT'S ALLOWED FOR MY REPORT.
HARVEY, A LEGENDARY UNDYING...
...THE FIRST PERSON I'VE EVER MET WHO IS ABLE TO SEE THE SPIRITS OF THE DEAD LIKE I DO. EVEN IF IT'S JUST DURING VACATION...
WOW. HIS WOUNDS ARE ALREADY CLOSED UP.
WELL, HIS THROAT'S NOT CLOSED UP YET, OF COURSE.

HAVING FUN, KIELI?
YES!
WAAH! IT'S MOVING!
...I WANT TO TALK TO HIM A LITTLE LONGER...
!
?
OH GOOD. NOW I FEEL BETTER.
UM, YOU KNOW?
THE TRUTH IS, I THINK I'VE KNOWN SINCE THE ACCIDENT THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY
I DIED LIKE THAT A LONG, LONG TIME AGO I STOPPED EXISTING BEFORE I EVEN MET YOU, KIELI.
WHAT IS THIS— ALL OF A SUDDEN ...?

HARVEY-SAN, I'M LEAVING KIELI TO YOU TAKE RESPONSIBILITY AND MAKE SURE YOU LOOK AFTER HER.
SHE'S VERY SHY, AND SHE'S NEVER FOLLOWED ANYONE ON HER OWN INITIATIVE LIKE THIS BEFORE.
AND I GUESS I SHOULD APOLOGIZE. SORRY FOR CAUSING YOU SO MUCH TROUBLE.
OH... IT WAS NOTHING.
BECCA ...?
YOU'LL BE FINE WITHOUT ME NOW, KIELI.

THANK YOU. IT WAS FUN BEING WITH YOU.
I WANT YOU TO HAVE LOTS MORE FUN AFTER THIS.
BECCA, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOU-
BECAUSE YOU STILL HAVE...
...A LONG FUTURE AHEAD OF YOU, KIELI.

WHY...?
SHE CAME TO TERMS WITH IT
PEOPLE WHO'VE DIED DISAPPEAR. IT'S ONLY NATURAL.
TATAN
WHY NOT SEE HER OFF WITHOUT CRYING?
SHE SAID SHE HAD FUN, DIDN'T SHE?
SHE WAS SELFISH AND ALWAYS A NUISANCE..
...BUT...

...SHE WAS MY FIRST BEST FRIEND...
HEY, BECCA.
...SURE TO BE BY MY SIDE...
...YOU WERE ALWAYS...
SOB
SNIFF
IT'S NOT TRUE THAT YOU DIDN'T EXIST
BECAUSE, MORE THAN ANY CLASSMATE THAT I EVER HAD...
BOTCHIN, CONJOBS
CHAPTER 1: ROOMMATE / FIN

CHAPTER 2

MAY I SEE YOUR TICKET?

I'M ON A RESEARCH TRIP FOR SCHOOL...
...OR AT LEAST THAT'S MY STORY BUT I'M ACTUALLY FOLLOWING THIS STRANGE PAIR OF PEOPLE(?).
WHAT'S THAT SONG, CORPORAL?
I'VE NEVER HEARD IT BEFORE.
Hmm? Oh, you wouldn't know it, would you, Kiel? It's a song from a long time ago.
IT'S ALREADY THE FOURTH DAY OF COLONIZATION.
THE FIRST DAWN HAS BROKEN SINCE I LEFT THE TOWN OF EASTERBURY YESTERDAY.

THIS IS THE TALKING RADIO, CORPORAL. THE CORPORAL IS A SPIRIT POSSESSING A RADIO; HE SAYS HE WAS A LANCE CORPORAL WHEN HE DIED IN THE WAR.
It's called rock. Guerilla radio stations play it in secret.
SO THERE USED TO BE DIFFERENT KINDS OF MUSIC BESIDES CHURCH MUSIC?
The Church doesn't like it. They've forbidden it—say it's savage.
There were lots of different kinds. And a lot of different value systems.
Those songs are about living through your own power.
But nowadays, the Church is strong, so you can't have different values or different music. Of all the different kinds, I like rock best.
HMM...
BECCA WAS MY FIRST BEST FRIEND
I WISH BECCA COULD'VE HEARD IT

YOU KNOW, CORPORAL...
...BECCA WAS REALLY GOOD AT SINGING HYMNS!
Is that so?
I'VE HAD THE POWER TO SEE GHOSTS SINCE I WAS LITTLE.
I'M THE WEIRDEST GIRL IN SCHOOL.
SHE WAS MY ROOMMATE AT THE BOARDING SCHOOL.
AND SHE WAS A GHOST.

TOTOH (CHUCHU)
IS HE SLEEPING...? HE'S LIKE A CORPSE ..
BUT RIGHT NOW...
TOTOH (CHUCHU)

AH!
WHAT?
ピチ
PACHI
LOVING
...I HAVE HARVEY, AN UNDYING WHO, LIKE ME, CAN SEE THE SPIRITS OF THE DEAD
NOTHING.
I WAS JUST LOOKING
IT SEEMS THAT HARVEY IS ON HIS WAY TO THE ABANDONED MINES IN EASTERN EASTERBURY..
...TO TAKE THE CORPORAL, WHO DIED IN BATTLE TOWARD THE END OF THE WAR, TO HIS BODY'S RESTING PLACE

You should just help Kieli with her vacation homework.
YOU'RE KIDDING! WHY SHOULD I!!?
...OR SO THEY SAY...
AN UNDYING OF LEGEND, WHO WILL COME BACK TO LIFE NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES HE'S KILLED. .
HARVEY IS A DEMON OF WAR, CHASED BY THE CHURCH IN THEIR UNDYING HUNT.
Hey, Herbie.
IT'S HARVEY.
You've wandered all over the planet for decades since the war ended.
And while you did, you learned what kind of filthy tricks the Church has..
AAAAAHH!!!
I WANT TO SPEND THE TIME I HAVE LEFT IN PEACE!!
Why worry now?
YOU WANNA MAKE ME A TRAITOR TO THE CHURCH!?
SHUT UP, YOU PIECE OF SCRAP METAL!!

OH, YEAH! THERE WAS SOMETHING I WANTED TO ASK YOU!
!
IS MY SONG IN HIS A CHURCH SINGING WORLD SAD?
...HE'S KIND OF LIKE THIS.
ANY-WAY...
...FOR A REPORT LIKE THAT, YOU SHOULD WRITE WHATEVER'D MAKE THE CHURCH HAPPY.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
OF COURSE THERE'S NOT.
HAVE YOU NOTICED? THAT THERE'S NO GOD IN THE CHURCH?
THEN DO YOU KNOW WHY THAT IS?
I THINK THIS PLANET WAS TOO FAR AWAY, SO HE WENT BACK HOME.
PAM OSAMO
HE NOTICED IT, TOO... HE'S JUST LIKE ME...!!

UM, WELL...
SEE...
WHAAA?
...WHEN THE SAINTS WHO MADE THE CHURCH LEFT GOD AND THEIR HOME PLANET TO PREACH THEIR RELIGION
ARE YOU OKAY?
SU ZHULIN
...THIS PLANET WAS TOO FAR AWAY FROM THE MOTHER PLANET, SO...
SO...
OH.
HERE
GOOD CHUNHUAD
UMMM...

NIKO NIKO
NIKO NIKO
NIKO NIKO
WHY DIDN'T YOU SHOW HIM YOUR TICKET?
TO BE MEAN?
SHOW WHO?
"WHO" ...?
OH!

TELL ME THESE THINGS SOONER!!
.....
IT'S NOT MY JOB.
HEH HEH...
.....
TUTOR COMRADE
TUTOR COMRADE
A GHOST...
He's not hurting anybody. He won't mind if you just leave him alone.
SO YOU KNEW, TOO, CORPORAL...
BUT THIS IS NICE.
I WONDER WHAT HE'S DOING.
RIGHT NOW, I'M NOT ALONE IN SEEING GHOSTS
HE'S CHECKING TICKETS.
ASAMI CHIKANO

I WONDER WHAT HE'S DOING.
.....
...LOOK, YOU...
THIS IS ADVICE FROM YOUR ELDER. IT'S NOT LIKE I'M TELLING YOU THIS BECAUSE IF YOU GET INVOLVED WITH THESE TROUBLESOME GHOSTS AND, FOR SOME REASON, THE SPARKS FLY IN MY DIRECTION AND THREATEN MY PEACEFUL SCHEDULE THEN THAT'S A HUGE PAIN IN THE ASS... BUT SINCE THAT IS THE CASE, I'M TELLING YOU...
LET'S GET ONE THING STRAIGHT.
..YOU LET THEM TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOU TOO MUCH!!
THE REASON PEOPLE NORMALLY CAN'T SEE THEM IS THAT THEY'RE ALREADY DEAD AND DON'T HAVE MUCH INFLUENCE IN THE WORLD ANYMORE
SO PEOPLE CAN'T SEE THEM, 'COS THAT WAY THEY WON'T BE A NUISANCE!!

AUGH, YOU DON'T HAVE TO LOOK SO SULLEN...
I GET THE FEELING NOT REACTING WOULD BE HARD FOR ME.
IF YOU WANNA LIVE A NORMAL LIFE, THEN STOP REACTING EVERY TIME AND JUST IGNORE THEM
O-OH, I SEE
WEL
...I SAY THAT, BUT I'M NOT LIVING A NORMAL LIFE MYSELF
HE'S BACK
?

!?
I WONDER WHAT HE'S DOING...
FOR SOMEONE WHO LOOKED SO WORRIED WHEN I SAID IT, RIGHT NOW YOU DON'T SEEM LIKE YOU ACTUALLY LISTENED TO MY ADVICE
I LISTENED... BUT...
...BUT IT'S NOT LIKE THAT...

EH?
WAH ...!
WHAT?
ZAZA
ZAZA
WHAT'S GOING ON...?
WHAT?

N-
!!
NO
...!!

!
CALM DOWN.
THE TRAIN'S MOVING LIKE NORMAL.
DON'T GET WORKED UP. WE'RE THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN SEE THIS.
CALM DOWN.

NOW SIT DOWN.

WHAT WAS..

IT'S HARVEY
You've got a rare condition. Right, Herbie?
Probably the memories of the conductor's ghost. He must have died in the accident when the train turned sideways.
THE CONDUCTOR'S
For a normal human, you picked that scene up pretty vividly.
...PICKED UP...?
I'LL EXPLAIN.
YOU LISTENING?
THE MOMENT A PERSON DIES, THEIR STRONG EMOTIONS, REGRETS, AND THE LIKE, ARE RELEASED

WHEN A SPIRIT WHO POSSESSES SUCH MEMORIES GETS CLOSE, IT'S EASY TO SEE THEM
...IF I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ANYWAY...
THOSE MEMORIES ARE SEWN OVER SPACE AND OBJECTS, AND YOU END UP PICKING UP ON THEM.
GYU (SQUEEZE)
THE MEMO-RIES OF THE DEAD...
...WHY AM I ABLE TO SEE IT...?
WELL, HE'S ALREADY DEAD NOW.
SO IT'S NOT LIKE YOU CAN DO ANY-THING.

WHY...?!

NO. THESE ARE SOMEONE'S MEMORIES...
A DREAM...
I'M PICKING SOMETHING UP AGAIN...
...FROM SOMEONE WHO DIED...
I DON'T LIKE THIS.

I'M SCARED.

HARVEY, WAKE ME UP...
I DON'T LIKE THIS...
HARVEY...

AH...! MY TICKET
BIGO (RUMMAGE)

.....
I'M AWAKE...

HA (GASP)
OH, YEAH. I DON'T HAVE TO SHOW HIM...

.....

WELL, I JUST HAD A REALLY SCARY DREAM...
DO YOU KNOW WHAT "LEARNING ABILITY" IS?

AREN'T YOU CURIOUS ABOUT WHAT THAT CONDUCTOR IS DOING?
NO.
SUPA (FLAT)

IT WAS A DREAM ABOUT THE LAST MOMENTS OF A SOLDIER WHO WAS MISSING A FOOT .
COULD IT HAVE BEEN ..
UGH!
..THE CORPORAL'S MEMORIES ?
!
!?
NGH ...!!
AGAIN ...!!

!
HAR-
VEY-
YYY...
NOW
SEE
HERE!
YOU CAN
LOOK AT
ME LIKE
THAT,
BUT...

H-HEY..
I WONDER WHAT HE'S UP TO..?

I thought he was a harmless spirit who had just fallen into an endless replay of his memories of the accident, but...
Don't you think some thing's strange?
!
YOU'RE RIGHT...
!
HE DIDN'T CARE AT ALL WHEN I SAID IT
I'M GOING AFTER HIM.
KIELI?

I KNEW IT!
Herbie.
LET'S GO.
PATA
PATA
PATA
PATA
GATOTON
GATOTON
GATOTON
GATOTON
HU
GYAAAO
GYAAAO
WAH
...!

THE COUPLER ...?
GACHIN (LOADED)
GOTOTON (UNLOAD)
GACHIN (CLAMP)
GACHAN (RATTLE)
SO THIS IS WHERE HE RUNS BACK TO..
I WONDER IF THERE'S SOMETHING HERE?
GACHAN
IT'S BROKEN, ISN'T IT?
!
GACHAN
GACHAN

ISN'T THAT DANGER-OUS?
DUNNO. IF THEY'RE NOT CARE-FUL, THE TRAIN COULD DERAIL.
...WHAT SHOULD WE DO ...?
GOYOTOH
Why, you... So you don't care as long as you can get away?
SHIZUKA
IF IT STARTS TO LOOK REALLY BAD, I CAN JUST JUMP OFF, RIGHT?
...?

THAT'S ENOUGH!
I'LL GO TELL THE LIVING CONDUC-
NO.
I CAN CARRY YOU AND KIELI.
!
...I HAVE TO HURRY!
BUT I HAVE TO.
IT'S OKAY.
THIS IS THE CONDUCTOR'S MEMORY.

!
THE CONDUCTOR'S SPIRIT STOPPED OVER THERE ?
..AT HIS OWN CORPSE FROM HIS MEMORY...
HE'S LOOKING DOWN...
HE DIDN'T MAKE IT IN TIME
HE FOUND THE BROKEN COUPLER...
...AND RAN BACK TO TRY AND STOP THE TRAIN
HE WASN'T ABLE TO MAKE IT IN TIME...

PLEASE... STOP THE TRAIN...!!
...AND THAT CON-DUC-TOR...
THE COUPLER'S BROKEN! ON THE CAR OVER THERE!
SLOW DOWN RIGHT AWAY ...!!
WHA ZAH MAHA ...?

THERE'LL BE A BIG ACCIDENT!!
EVEN IF WE HIT THE BRAKES RIGHT NOW, WE WON'T MAKE IT IN TIME BEFORE THE NEXT CURVE
GYAGYAGYAG

EVERY NIGHT, I PRAY THAT AN ASTEROID WILL HIT THE PLANET, BUT MY WISH IS NEVER GRANTED.
But Kieli does every-thing she can.
I'M NOT REALLY A FRIEND OF THE PEOPLE, SERVING THE PUBLIC FOR ZERO COM-PENSATION.
RATHER, I'D PREFER THAT MANKIND WAS DESTROYED.
I like that.
.....
...HOLDING THE BROKEN COUPLING TOGETHER WITH MY BARE HANDS?
GAH, WHAT THE HELL AM I DOING...

MY ARM JUST HEALED ...!!
SHIIIT...
BANG! (CLANG)
!! IT CAME APART
GA (CRUMB)
STUPID...
FUSHAAA (SCRAMBLE)
JUST GO BACK TOGETHER ALREADY ...!!

!!
CORPORAL ...!!
Dammit, Herbie...
We're gonna fall!
...what kind of idiot lets go of the handrail !!?

HARVEY!!

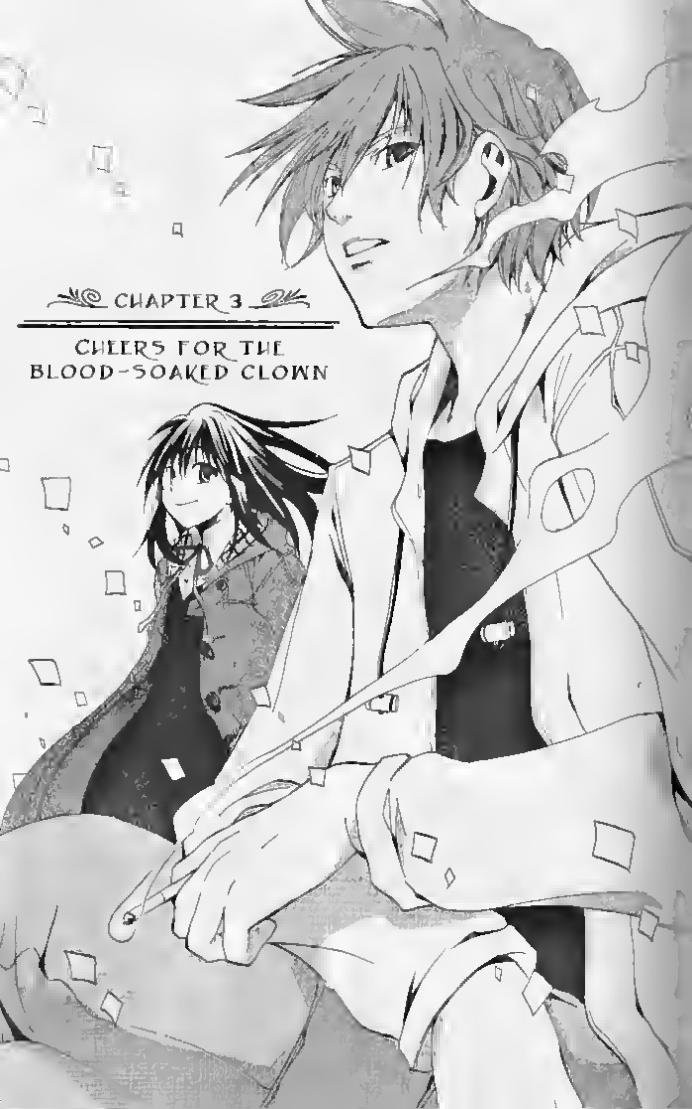
.....
HAHA..
WHAT THE HELL AM I DOING..?
WAH ...!

HARVEY, YOU'RE HEAVY. .
PATA (WHAM)
THAT SO
I SAID YOU'RE HEAVYYY!!!
NO...
HEY, HARVEY.
THEY'RE SAYING AN EMERGENCY CAR IS COMING ARE WE NOT GETTING ON IT?
ZAWA (MURMUR)
ZAWA

BUT THEY SAID THEY'D GIVE US A THANK YOU LETTER
I DON'T WANT TO BE ASKED ANNOYING QUESTIONS ...!
AND I'D BE IN TROUBLE IF THEY FOUND OUT ABOUT ME
HARVEY, ARE YOU OKAY...?
OH, SORRY. I GOT BLOOD ON YOUR COAT.
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT
DOESN'T IT HURT ..?
YEAH, WELL...

I CAN IGNORE THE PAIN... I WAS TRAINED THAT WAY.
BUT...
...THAT DOESN'T MEAN IT DOESN'T HURT, DOES IT?
WE'LL BE WALKING TO THE NEXT STATION. IS THAT OKAY WITH YOU?
EEHHH !?
IT'S NOT THAT FAR.
I HEARD A VOICE...
I THOUGHT...
THEN WE SHOULD JUST LET THEM TAKE US...

GOOD-BYE
...SAYING THANK YOU.
I'M COMING! WAIT UP!
KIELI! IF YOUR LEGS ARE TOO SHORT, I'LL CARRY YOU!
CHAPTER 2 MAY I SEE YOUR TICKET? | FIN



CHAPTER 3

CHEERS FOR THE BLOOD-SOAKED CLOWN

WELCOME, WELCOME!
WOOOW!!!
STEP BACK!!
WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE LONG COLONIZATION DAY BREAK, AND IT'S THE SECOND NIGHT OF MY RESEARCH TRIP.

CORPORAL! HARVEY! THEY'RE HAVING A CARNIVAL!! THE TOWN IS A DIFFERENT PLACE THAN IT WAS THIRTY MINUTES AGO!!
LET'S GO TAKE A LITTLE LOOK, SINCE WE'RE STAYING HERE TONIGHT!
OR THAT'S MY STORY, AS I FOLLOW CLOSELY AFTER THIS STRANGE PAIR OF PEOPLE.
THEIR DESTINATION IS THE ABANDONED MINE IN EASTERN EASTERBURY.
THIS IS THE CORPORAL, THE SPIRIT OF A SOLDIER WHO DIED IN THE WAR AND IS POSSESSING A RADIO
There are too many loud, showy thoughts in this town. It makes my eyes spin.
Give me a break, I'll pass
COME ON!
.....

You're one to talk about people's ages.
AND THIS..
OLD MEN DON'T DO SO WELL IN FLASHY PLACES
...IS A LEGENDARY UNDYING, HARVEY.
AN UNDYING SOLDIER...

...CREATED BY RECYCLING THE BODY OF A FALLEN SOLDIER IN THE WAR EIGHTY YEARS AGO.
A DEMON OF WAR, THAT WON'T DIE... EVEN IF YOU KILL HIM.
BUT...
BY THE WAY..
..I'M PASSING, TOO. IT'S TOO MUCH TROUBLE, AND I DON'T CARE
ERK!

(CREAK)
..FINE. THEN I'LL GO BY MYSELF.
AAAUUGH...

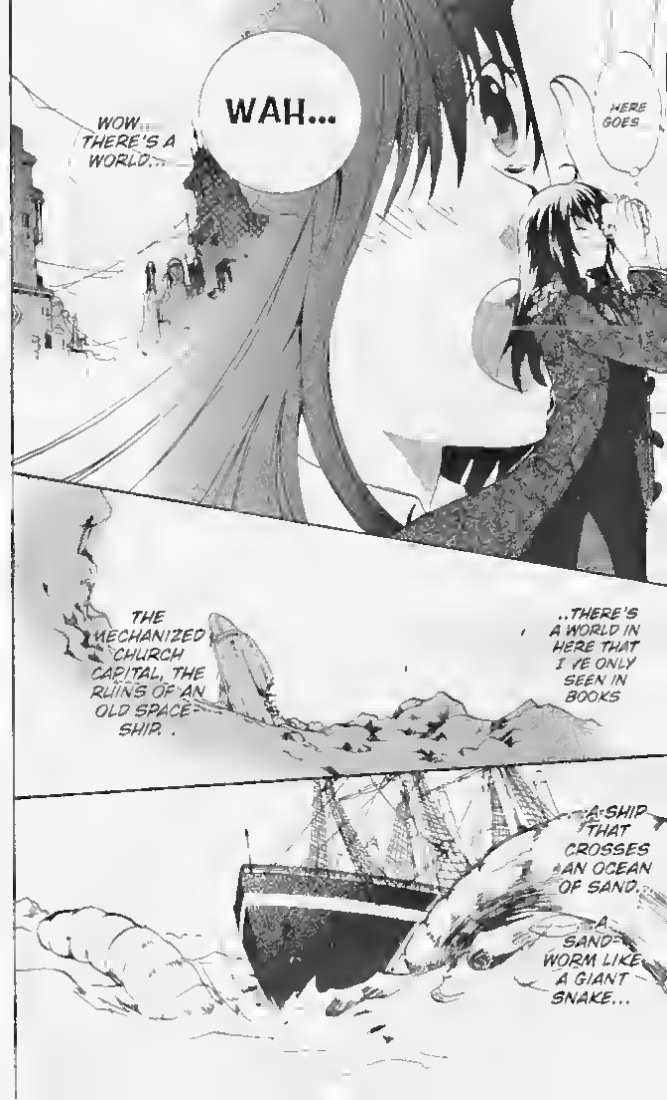
I'LL GO WITH YOU UNTIL YOU GET OUTSIDE
?
I'M OUT OF CIGARETTES
KAORI ITSUKO
THIS IS WHAT HARVEY'S LIKE.

WOOOW!!!

I WONDER WHERE ALL THESE PEOPLE CAME FROM!
WHEN WE GOT HERE, I ACTUALLY THOUGHT THIS TOWN WAS KIND OF DESERTED!
THAT'S ONLY IN THE AFTER-NOON.
DURING THE COLONI-ZATION DAY HOLIDAYS
LOTS OF PEDDLERS AND ENTER-TAINMENT TROUPES GATHER IN THIS TOWN AND PUT ON A CARNIVAL EVERY NIGHT.
WOW
IT'S INCRED-IBLE
IF IT WASN'T FOR THE TRAIN ACCIDENT, WE WOULD HAVE PASSED RIGHT BY IT
I'M GRATEFUL TO THAT CONDUC-TOR
I'VE HAD AN UNUSUAL POWER SINCE I WAS LITTLE

JUST BEFORE WE CAME TO THIS TOWN, THE SPIRIT OF A TRAIN CONDUCTOR WHO DIED IN AN A DERAILMENT A LONG TIME AGO..
...WARNED US THAT THE TRAIN WE WERE RIDING ON WAS IN DANGER, AND WE AVOIDED A BIG ACCIDENT. (BUT BECAUSE OF IT, WE HAD TO WALK TO THIS TOWN.)
...THE POWER TO SEE GHOSTS.
BUT NOW, I HAVE HARVEY WHO SEES GHOSTS LIKE I DO.
IT'S JUST BECAUSE OF THIS POWER THAT I'M THE WEIRDEST GIRL AT MY BOARDING SCHOOL.
WAA
COMEURO
!

HA-HA-HA-HA
I WONDER WHAT THAT IS
WHOA THAT STARTLED ME.
HE WANTS ME TO LOOK INSIDE THE BOX...?
C'MERE
C'MERE


WAH...
WOW... THERE'S A WORLD...
HERE GOES...
THE MECHANIZED CHURCH CAPITAL, THE RUINS OF AN OLD SPACE SHIP. .
..THERE'S A WORLD IN HERE THAT I'VE ONLY SEEN IN BOOKS
A SHIP THAT CROSSES AN OCEAN OF SAND.
A SAND-WORM LIKE A GIANT SNAKE...

IF I CHANGE THE ANGLE, IT SPINS AROUND AND AROUND..
EEEEK!!!

...THAT WAS MEAN...

WHY DON'T YOU TRY IT, HARVEY? IT'S REALLY FUN
WELL, I WAS SO SCARED I FELL OVER. .
HE-HE
WAS IT THAT MUCH FUN?

YOU'RE NO FUN SO YOU KNEW?
HE'S JUST FOOLING BUMPKINS IN WESTERBURY, 3-D PROJECTIONS AREN'T ANYTHING SPECIAL.
I'M GOING BACK AFTER WE'VE GONE AROUND ONCE.
AND AT FIRST HE SAID HE WAS JUST GONNA BUY CIGARETTES.

IT'S BEEN EIGHTY YEARS SINCE THE WAR ENDED.
THE CORPORAL SAID THAT HARVEY, AN UNDYING, LIVED ON, AND WANDERED ALL OVER THE PLANET.
SO, YOU'VE BEEN TO WESTERBURY, HARVEY?
I'VE STAYED IN WESTERBURY.
BECCA WOULD ALWAYS TALK ABOUT THE GIANT SCREENS ON THE BUILDINGS IN WESTERBURY
OH, THAT GHOST FRIEND OF YOURS RIGHT?

IT'S LIKELY THAT HARVEY'S VISITED...
...ALL THE PLACES I CAUGHT A GLIMPSE OF IN THAT BOX.
I WONDER IF HARVEY...
...TRAVELED ALL ALONE BEFORE HE PICKED UP THE CORPORAL?
SUNDAY COMMUNICATIONS
ドーン
ドーン
ガンッ
!
ガンッ
SUNDAY

AAAH-HHH!!
HARVEY, HARVEY, THAT MAN'S GOING TO DIE!!
AH-HA-HA!
THAT'S SO WEIRD!!

EH?
IS IT REALLY THAT MUCH FUN...?
HEY...
AT SCHOOL, I THINK I WAS MORE ON THE SOBER SIDE...
WHY AM I SO CHEERFUL AND HAPPY?
COME TO THINK OF IT, HE'S RIGHT.
.....

A BALLOON ...?
SOME-HOW, I'M DIFFERENT THAN USUAL.
I GUESS IT'S BEEN
SINCE I MET HARVEY AND THE CORPO-RAL.
TOUR COMPLETE
SANA
SANA CARNIVAL!!!

TH-THANK YOU...
EEP!
THIS CLOWN ISN'T ALIVE...
NO...

HE'S A GHOST...
WHERE'S HARVEY?
HA-
HARVEY!!

I DIDN'T SCREAM YET
HARVEY!

A DANCER OR SOMETHING?
IT IS YOU!!
WOW!
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT! I KNEW IT WAS YOU THE MINUTE I LAID EYES ON YOU!
I DIDN'T THINK I'D SEE YOU IN THIS TOWN!
COULD IT BE YOU CAME HERE TO SEE ME!?
OH, NO, WHAT TO DO!? I DON'T WANT TO BE UNFAITHFUL, BUT...
UMM...
...WHO ARE YOU AGAIN...?

DON'T "AAAAHH!" ME. YOU REALLY COULDN'T TELL?
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED IN THAT RESPECT, EITHER.
AAAAHH!
AUGUSTA!!
!
THE TROUPE LEADER —?
SO SHIMAN'S HERE, TOO...
YOU HAVE TIME TO TALK, RIGHT? I JUST WENT ON MY BREAK!
I WANT TO SURPRISE THE TROUPE LEADER YOU REALLY HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL!
KIEL!
NO, SORRY...

I'M GOING TO GO CHAT FOR A BIT. WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?
YOU CAN COME IF YOU WANT
YOU'RE WITH SOMEONE, HARVEY?
WHAT? WHAT'S WITH THAT GIRL!!?
DON'T TELL ME YOU JUST DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO AND GOT INVOLVED IN SOMETHING CRIMINAL!
SHOUTING THINGS THAT MAKE PEOPLE SOUND BAD
WHO DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO ABOUT WHAT NOW ?
UM WELL
THE CLOWN . JUST DISAP-PEARED .
SHE JUST STARTED TAGGING ALONG AFTER ME ON HER OWN.

...FINE.
I'M...
HEY, WAIT!
HEY, KIELI!
I'M GOING TO LOOK AROUND A LITTLE MORE

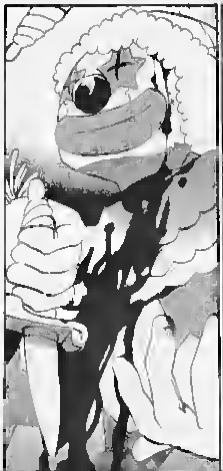
GO ON BACK WITHOUT ME. I'LL BE BACK BY MORNING AT THE LATEST.
ZAWA
ZAWA (UNEASINESS)

BACK BY MORNING ...!!!?
WHEN I WAS LITTLE, GRANDMA TOOK ME, JUST ONCE
TO A SHOW LIKE THIS
GRANDMA HELD MY HAND AS I GOT BUMPED AROUND IN THE CROWD.
WHEN I WAS LITTLE, HER HAND OFFERED THE GREATEST LEVEL OF WARMTH AND SECURITY.

...GRANDMA IS DEAD.
BUT NOW...
I WONDER WHAT THAT WOMAN IS TO HARVEY..

THEN HE THROWS IT HIGHER.

NO MATTER HOW MUCH HE PRAC-TICES, HE CAN'T...



HE THROWS A KNIFE AND CATCHES IT UNDER-HAND

...SHOW IT TO ANYONE ANY-MORE...
A-HA-HA-HA!!

TO THINK AUGUSTA'S CARRYING A BABY, HUH...?

SHIMAN IS ONE OF THE FEW PEOPLE WHO UNDERSTANDS ME AND KNOWS THAT I M AN UNDYING.
AND WHEN I FIRST MET YOU TWENTY OR THIRTY YEARS AGO, SHIMAN, YOU WERE STILL A LOWLY ACROBAT.
WHEN I LAST MET HER FIVE YEARS AGO, SHE WAS ONLY SEVENTEEN OR EIGHTEEN.
SAY I'VE GAINED PRESENCE
AND NOW YOU COMPLETELY LOOK THE PART OF TROUPE LEADER
SHE WAS THE STAR DANCER IN OUR TROUPE, BUT SHE'S RETIRING AFTER THIS SHOW.
MY FEET JUST NEVER TOOK ME TO EASTERBURY.
I SEE
THAT'S RIGHT
IS THAT FIRE-BREATHER HER HUSBAND?
BUT YOU'RE LOOKING TO GO TO THAT ABANDONED MINE, HUH?
WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO THERE? THERE'S NOTHING BUT GRAVES. HAVEN'T YOU BEEN THERE YET? I THOUGHT YOU'D BEEN EVERYWHERE ON THIS PLANET..

YEAH ..
THAT WAS THE FIELD FOR YOUR LAST BATTLE, WASN'T IT. ?
COME TO THINK OF IT, AUGUSTA TOLD ME YOU HAD A GIRL WITH YOU.
!
IF SHE HAS NO RELATIVES AND NEEDS A PLACE TO GO, THEN WE CAN TAKE HER IN...
NO...

ACTUALLY, I'M KIND OF ENJOYING BEING WITH HER.
BESIDES, I'M SURPRISED AT HOW INTERESTING IT IS TO WATCH HER
SHE HAS A PLACE TO GO BACK TO, SO I'LL SEND HER HOME NEXT WEEK
SOMETHING ABOUT HOW SHE ALWAYS AVOIDS DEALING WITH NORMAL PEOPLE.
SURPRISINGLY ENOUGH, I THINK SHE MIGHT BE A LOT LIKE ME.
ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE'S THAT GHOST GIRL WHO SAID SHE WAS HER ROOMMATE
AND THE CONDUCTOR'S GHOST ON THE TRAIN
SHE REACTS SO SENSITIVELY TO BEINGS WHO AREN'T NORMAL HUMANS, IT'S ALMOST DISGUSTING

TO BE HONEST, I NEVER THOUGHT THAT, AT THIS POINT IN MY LIFE, I'D ENCOUNTER SOMETHING...
THEN WHEN I THINK I'VE GOT HER, SHE GETS ALL EXCITED ABOUT A DIRTY, OLD CARNIVAL TRICK, LIKE A NORMAL GIRL.
...THAT WOULD SEEM SO NEW TO ME
WELL, IT WASN'T ONE OF OUR CLOWNS..
OH, YEAH, SHIMAN, HAVE ANY OF YOUR CLOWNS EVER DIED?
THAT'S RANDOM..

SINCE THEN, THERE HAVEN'T BEEN ANY CLOWNS IN THIS TOWN
I SEE..
BUT ABOUT THIS TIME TEN YEARS AGO, AN INSPECTION PARTY CAME TO THIS TOWN FROM THE CAPITAL.
I HEAR THAT, WHEN THEY DID, AN IMPORTANT PERSON IN THE CHURCH FELT LIKE ONE CLOWN'S PERFORMANCE WAS MOCKING HIM, AND HE HAD THAT CLOWN BEHEADED
LET'S MEET AGAIN WE'RE PLANNING TO HEAD EAST WHEN THE COLONIZA-TION PAYS ARE OVER
OH..
OH.. IT'S ABOUT TIME I GOT GOING

YOU'RE PREGNANT, AUGUSTA.
OH, I CAN STAY UP ONE NIGHT.
HARVEY! DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE LEAVING? LET'S TALK THROUGH THE NIGHT!
YEAH I'M GLAD WE COULD TALK.
YOU CAN STAY, RIGHT?
IT'S BEEN FIVE YEARS.
FIVE YEARS.
NO, I'M LEAVING.
MY PRINCESS MUST BE MISSING ME.

I SORT OF DECIDED ON MY OWN THAT FIVE YEARS IS MY LIMIT FOR ASSOCIATING WITH THE SAME PEOPLE
I'LL COME SEE YOU AGAIN AFTER THE BABY'S BORN
I HOPE I DON'T SOUND LIKE I'M LYING.
I HAVE TO BE CAREFUL SO THAT I DON'T RUN INTO THEM AGAIN.
IF ANYTHING, SHIMAN, IT'S GETTING PAINFUL TO SEE YOUR FACE.
YOU MIGHT BE AN OLD MAN THE NEXT TIME I SEE YOU.
I WISH I COULD GET A BREAK ALREADY.

I JUST DON'T WANT TO WATCH PEOPLE GROW OLD ANY-MORE...

WOOOW!!
AMAZING, AMAZING!!

KYAA
KYAA
AMAZING! AMAZING!! YOU REALLY DID IT!!

AHAHA. SORRY, SORRY I'M OKAY
I WAS JUST REMEMBERING WHEN I WAS LITTLE..
WHEN GRANDMA WAS ALIVE I LIVED SO CAREFREE AND HAPPY
BUT I'M SURE WHEN GRANDMA DIED, THAT SIDE OF ME DISAPPEARED SOMEWHERE, TOO.

MAYBE I JUST HAVEN'T REALIZED IT. .
I ONLY FEEL COMFORTABLE, LIKE I DO NOW, WITH PEOPLE WHO'VE DIED.
...AND I'VE BEEN A GHOST, ALL THIS TIME, TOO...
ポポー
PO-PON (T-POT)

WHY YOU...!
WHY WEREN'T YOU BACK AT THE ROOM? I'VE BEEN LOOK-ING FOR YOU!
WHAT ARE YOU FOOLING AROUND HERE FOR?
EH? WHAT?
WHY ARE YOU CRYING?
SHUT UP WEREN'T YOU GONNA COME BACK IN THE MORNING!?
IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE CRYING ABOUT?
NO!!

HE DOESN'T UNDERSTAND PEOPLE'S CONCERNS.
STOP IT!
SORRY, SORRY. I FINISHED MY BUSINESS.

AND AFTER HE WAS THE ONE WHO SAID HE'D STAY IN THE HOTEL BY HIMSELF THE OLD FOGEY
LET'S GO BACK THE CORPORAL'S GOTTEN BORED AND IS DOING NOTHING BUT WHINING
IT'S BIG AND BONY, WITH ROUGH, LONG FINGERS
BUT IT HAS THE SAME WARMTH IT FEELS NICE
HIS HAND'S COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM GRANDMA'S WRINKLED HAND

I DON'T WANT TO LET GO.

Hello, nice to meet you. I wrote the original *Kieli: The Dead Sleep in the Wilderness* novels. My name is Yukako Kabei. This time, I was given a precious extra page. I don't often get this chance, so I'm writing this by hand. These days, everyone relies on computers to write novels, and clean handwritten copies of things are nearly nonexistent, so in the last few years, I've completely forgotten how to write in neat handwriting. Please forgive my scribbles.

Now, the original novels of *Kieli* were published by Dengeki Bunko, and have been wrapped up in nine volumes. *The Dead Sleep in the Wilderness* is the story from the first novel. I never dreamed I'd be fortunate enough to have the editors at Akita Shoten come to me with this idea, but now the series is being made into a manga with beautiful drawings by Shiori Teshirogi-san. When each new chapter came out in Bonita, Teshirogi-san and I would get really excited over strange things, e-mailing each other with, "The blood! The blood!" "You can see his teeth through his cheek!" "His muscle tissue!" and the like. Even the scenes that I made gory in the original without thinking too much about the visuals are re-created beautifully, and I am nothing but impressed by Teshirogi-san's artistic ability. Of course I'm impressed with her adorable Kieli and her good-looking Harvey, too!

Also, I would like to use this space to thank Shunsuke Tagami-san, who was in charge of the illustrations for the novels and gave birth to the visuals of the characters that became the prototypes for Teshirogi-san's characters. And so, I humbly borrowed one of Tagami-san's illustrations below.

The novels continue through nine volumes, so if you liked the characters and the world presented in this work, then please, if you are so inclined, pick up the novels as well.

I would like to thank Shiori Teshirogi-sama, who vividly expressed the world of this series in her wonderful manga, the editors at Akita Shoten who took notice of the original novels, and all the people who took care of me at Dengeki Bunko.

And to you, who were kind enough to pick up this book, I give you my highest level of thanks.

Yukako Kabei
Summer 2006